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THE GARDEN CALENDAR.

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A radio discussion by W. R. Beattie, Bureau of Plant Industry, delivered in the Department of Agriculture period of the National Farm and Home Hour, broadcast by a network of 50 associate NBC radio stations, Wednesday, January 9, 1935.

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At the close of my talk on December 26th, I promised you a few suggestions regarding the proper arrangement of trees around your homes. In case you do not already have shade trees about your home you can lay out a definite plan and follow it, or if you have trees but wish to add more trees, you may be able to correct some of the mistakes previously made and work out a better arrangement. We plant trees around our homes for shade and ornament, shade usually being the main objective. In the arrangement or location of the trees we should study the layout carefully and plant our trees where they will give us shade where we want it at a particular time. It may be to shelter the kitchen or dining room from the blazing sunlight late in the afternoon, or to protect the sleeping rooms from the sun late in the evening.

In any event, the trees should not be located so close to the house that the branches will touch the roof or completely overhang it. While we want shade to protect us from the sun we don't want all sunlight excluded from our living quarters. Under most conditions the trees should be located back of the house and on either side with the foreground kept open so that the house itself can be seen from the highway. In other words, the house should be the picture and the trees the frame of the picture. Where the house is set in the trees and there are trees all around it, the trees in the front should be trimmed high enough so that there will be a view of the house beneath the branches.

Under no circumstances should the front lawn or approach to the house be completely filled or shut in by trees or shrubbery. Before you plant a shade tree study the location carefully, draw a mental picture of how the tree will look twenty years hence, and then locate your tree with that in mind.

When it comes to the kind of tree to plant for shade, the same rule will hold as for roadside planting, that is, plant native trees if possible. Plant the kinds that grow naturally in the fields and woods about you. There are at least a half dozen reasons why oaks make good shade trees. They have a broad spread and make handsome trees; they make a good shade; they hold their leaves well; they are seldom attacked by insects; they are sturdy and are not often broken by the wind; and, they live to a good old age. In addition, there are oaks that grow well on moist soils, the willow or water oak for example. The pin oak grows well on reasonably dry soils. The white oak grows well on rich upland soils and the live oak of the South grows well on the sandy soils and so there are oaks for nearly every location.

The New England States are noted for their wonderful elms and let us hope that the plant quarantine forces will be able to stamp out and eradicate the Dutch elm disease which has become established in this country. We were compelled to stand by and see the chestnut bark disease wipe out our chestnut forests, but we understand the Dutch elm disease better and how it spreads so there is a real chance that it may be stamped out.

(over)

The Chinese or Siberian elm is proving its worth as a shade tree for the dry regions of the northwest. It withstands drought remarkably well and makes a rapid growth. I have a couple of Chinese elms growing on my place near Washington and they are making an excellent growth. My main objection to the Chinese elm is that it is attacked by the elm tree leaf beetle and unless the foliage is kept sprayed or dusted with arsenical or some other effective poison, the leaf beetles ruin the appearance of the foliage. When you come down to the facts in the case there are not many trees that are entirely free from insect attack. You folks who live in the dry land sections can plant green ash, hackberry, balsam poplar and boxelder in addition to the Chinese elm. The drought of the past year or two has been a severe test of the tree growth of the plains region and you can feel assured that any species that have survived and are doing well under these trying conditions may be depended upon.

You folks who live in the South are justly proud of your splendid liveoaks. You know when I see one of those splendid old trees with its great spreading branches I just want to take off my hat and stand in reverence of its strength and beauty. While nursery trees are usually better for planting than the wild trees, yet I should not let that stand in my way and if I could not get the nursery trees I'd select nice straight and well-formed wild trees, dig them carefully and plant them about my home for shade. Watering the trees during the first two or three years will often insure their becoming established and cause them to grow under adverse conditions.

Where the home is exposed to the full sweep of the winds a shelter belt of trees on the side of the prevailing winds will do wonders to protect the home and other buildings. The State forestry folks have tried the different kinds of trees for shelter belt planting and they're in position to advise you as to the kinds to plant. I believe in planting trees for shade and for shelter but one has to be very careful to avoid mistakes.

THH